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TODAY and TOMORROW

Another Acid Test

THE news that the East Indies is to realise their independence very soon is really a matter for great jubilation. The Indonesians gave full expression to their joy as soon as they heard the news. They realised that the last step towards independence had been reached and it was only a matter of crossing the threshold which could be accomplished easily. Indonesian leaders voiced their appreciation of Nippon's sincerity and magnanimity and lauded the steadfast loyalty of the Nipponese people to their promises and pledges. The President of the Central Council of Sumatra declared that it was a matter of great jubilation to realise that the much awaited privilege of independence is now being made possible. In return for all that Nippon has done for the Indonesians, he said, it is their duty to construct an ideal nation and fulfil their grave responsibility by striving for final victory in the present war of Greater East Asia which will mean the smashing of all Anglo-American sinister designs for enslaving East Asia, while another leader expressed the firm hope that the Indonesian people, in keeping with the ideals set out in the Greater East Asia Declaration, would achieve the fulfilment of their long-cherished national aspirations. The feelings of the Indonesians are also shared by the people of other East Asiatic countries.

It is crystal clear that unlike the Anglo-Americans, Nippon has always carried out her pledges and stood loyally by her promises. In every instance she has by her deeds given full proof of her sincerity and goodwill towards the peoples of Asia. The Anglo-Americans are promising more and more while breaking their pledges of the past. Take the case of India. Britain, while tightening the chains of slavery in India, is holding out beautiful promises to the Indian people. While starving them to death they talk of economic reconstruction for India and better harvests in the future. The Anglo-Americans will always speak of the future but what that future will be, the experiences of the past have proved. Indians are aware of this, but it is regrettable that some of India's leaders still rely on the Anglo-American Future, rather than on their own efforts of the Present.

For India there can be nothing in terms of a Future until they face the realities of the Present, and endeavour with all the strength to achieve today itself what they expect to achieve tomorrow. To do this they must take full advantage of the present international situation, especially the War of Greater East Asia and continue their Freedom Struggle with greater determination. Only by doing this, and not by pinning hopes on Anglo-American promises can Indians attain their cherished goal.

Indonesians Aware Of Heavy Responsibility Entrusted Upon Nation

Festive Mood Prevails Throughout Macassar

Djakarta, August 8 (Domei)—In outlining the policies to be followed by the preparatory committee for independence of the East Indies, high Indonesian officials told Domei here today that all members of the committee are fully aware of the heavy responsibility charged on them. They said members of the Commission are to be appointed by the Djawa Military Administration. However the mission of the Committee will be performed solely by Indonesians themselves on their own initiative and responsibility.

According to these Indonesian officials, the work of the Committee will be pushed ahead along the following lines:

"Firstly, to reaffirm Indonesians' conviction that the independence of the Indonesian race will contribute to the maintenance of a world order of justice and righteousness is in complete accord with the Nippon guiding spirit of "hakko ichiu" (universal brotherhood).

"Secondly, in the light of the prevailing situation, the new state must come into existence in the midst of war and therefore the new state should in its set-up be as simple, as strong as possible, and so organized to "by itself participate in the successful prosecution of the War of Greater East Asia, in the closest co-operation with Nippon."

Macassar, August 9 (Domei)—With the day of glorious independence already close at hand, a festive mood prevailed among Indonesian people in the Celebes. In Macassar thousands of Indonesians and representatives of various circles of native residents yesterday assembled at the Municipal Plaza to attend a grand rally to express their gratitude to Nippon.

Following addresses by the Nippon Civil Administrator and Unit Commander, the Chairman read a resolution in which he expressed Indonesians' appreciation for the decision announced by the Nippon army authorities in the southern areas to establish a preparatory committee for East Indies independence in the middle of this month.

Intensified Fighting In Northern Luzon War Front

Lisbon, August 8 (Domei)—A strong Nippon garrison defending the northwest approach to the Agna River Valley of Northern Luzon and Fil-American forces are locked in an intensified battle, Associated Press correspondent Russell Brines reported here today in a dispatch from Baguio.

Promoted To Rank Of Major-General

His Excellency S. C. Alagappan, Minister of State of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind and Director of Medical Services, has been promoted to the rank of Major-General. This well-merited promotion is hailed by all ranks of the Azad Hind Fauj and by the general public.

British And Soviet Troops Withdraw From Teheran To Comply Iran Demand

Lisbon, August 8 (Domei)—Finally complying with insistent Iranian demands for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Iran, Britain and the Soviet Union have agreed to an immediate withdrawal of their forces from Teheran, the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced today, according to a Teheran message.

Both the Soviet Union and Britain, it will be recalled, had been reluctant to meet Iranian demands, fearing that the withdrawal of either one of their troops would prove to the advantage of the other.

It is believed that the British and Soviet governments finally reached an agreement for a simultaneous withdrawal at the Potsdam talks, although no specific mention of the Iranian issue was made in the final Potsdam communique.

Persecution And Terror Rage Throughout Greece

Zurich, August 8 (Domei)—An almost incredible story of persecution and terror raging in Greece following the suppression of the "ELAS" uprising early this year today was told to Anglo-American correspondents who interviewed some 4,000 former members of the Greek resistance movement now confined in an asylum in Yugoslavia, according to a Reuter dispatch.

A group of men who arrived from Thessaly only a few days ago said that the terror was not abating, with jails packed and scores of daily executions.

These men said they came to Yugoslavia with murder in their hearts for the Greek Government and British authorities whom they regard as being the instigators of Greek reactionaries.

Political Body To Merge Into Dai Nippon Seijikan

Tokyo, August 9 (Domei)—The "Gokoku Doshikai" Patriotic Comrades Association, which is one of the two remaining political groups in Nippon, was formally disbanded today to be merged into the "Dai Nippon Seijikan," most influential political party, whose membership includes most of the members of the House of Representatives.

Chairman Sekiya Ino, in a statement issued today, said the amalgamation was made in order to strengthen political influence on the part of the people."

Meanwhile the other and only remaining political group, the "Yokusan Sonen Doshikai," Imperial Rule Assistance Men's Corps Comrades Association which is headed by Kazuo Miura is expected to follow suit shortly.

India Government Not Releasing Azad-Wavell Correspondence During Simla Parley; Secrecy Attributed For Non-Publication Of Letters

—:o:—

Complete Independence Held Only Solution To India Famine And Feud

In New Delhi yesterday, Sir J P. Srivastava, Food Member of the Government of India referred in a speech to the report of the Bengal Famine Commission. He praised "the courage and realism with which the Commission had surveyed the Bengal disaster and analysed the causes that had led to it."

It is felt that Srivastava's Government should show equal courage and realism in solving the problem of famine which still continues and which has been caused by Britain's exploitation of India's resources for waging her imperialist war. But famine and the causes of it cannot be removed by the compilation of reports. Independence is the only solution for all the ills that beset India.

Mr. Jinnah expressed the view in Bombay on Monday that India should strive for a final constitutional settlement rather than an interim government. The Pakistan question must be decided if the issue of freedom and the independence was to be settled. It was the only solution for India. Mr. Jinnah said that the Muslim League wanted to fight the elections to convince those who doubted the League's representative character.

Abdul Gaffar Khan Can't Be Coaxed By Leaguers

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the Congress President, has stated, according to a New Delhi report received here last night, that the correspondence which passed between him and the Viceroy during the Simla Conference is being held as confidential by the Viceroy, as it was part of the Conference proceedings. Maulana Azad added that in accordance with the Viceroy's decisions the correspondence would remain confidential.

The Congress President has stated that, in his opinion, after the Simla Conference it is for the British Government to take the next step for resolving the political deadlock in India. In reply to a question whether the Congress would again take the initiative for solving the communal tangle, Maulana Azad said the Congress has always tried to solve this problem and will do in future whatever lay in its power.

An appeal to Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan and his Khudai Khidmadgar to join the Muslim League has been made by Sardar Shafat Hyat Khan, leader of the Muslim League Assembly Party in the Punjab, says a New Delhi report.

Referring to Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan as a man of exceptional calibre who has given unlimited service, Sardar Shafat Hyat Khan appealed to Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan to save Muslims from annihilation and work for their uplift by coming into the Muslim League.

A local Pathan resident who is acquainted with Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan and knows the strength and influence of the Khudai Khidmatgar or "Servants of God", an organization affiliated to the Congress, and devoted to the service of the people, when interviewed, declared, that Shafat Hyat Khan's appeal to the Frontier leader to join the Muslim League would fall on deaf ears. A staunch patriot, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan would never consent to become a member of any communal organization, added the Pathan gentleman.

70,000 Bales Of Cotton Destroyed In Alexandria

Lisbon, August 8 (Domei)—For the second time in nine days, a fire broke out in the cotton stocks owned by the British Cotton Buying Commission in Alexandria, destroying 70,000 bales and causing damage estimated at about £500,000 Sterling, according to a Reuter dispatch from Alexandria.

The cause of both fires is unknown. The possibility of sabotage by anti-British elements is suggested however.

U.S. Press Admittance To "Black-Out" Areas Urged

Lisbon, August 7 (Domei)—Expressing dissatisfaction over the secrecy which shrouds Russian activities in Russian-controlled areas of Europe, American Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Michigan Republican, today called for a free access of uncensored American press into Poland and other "black-out areas of Europe," according to a Washington dispatch.

While numerous explicit "pledges" are mutually exchanged in respect to other matters, the questions of "free elections" and "free press" are largely dismissed by mere rhetorical reference, the American Senator said.

It is not enough, he said, to say that we "expect these Poles who return home shall be accorded personal and property rights" and that the powers will enjoy full freedom to report activities in Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Finland.

Actually, these are but words and nothing is being done, Vandenberg charged. The American Senator described these Russian-controlled areas as "areas of mystery." He said, "they are areas of violently conflicting and often disturbing reports of what goes on behind the black-outs."

He expressed firm hope that the American President would take steps to ensure American press admittance into these "black-out" areas.

Rumania's Big Reparations Debt To Soviet Govt.

Zurich, Aug. 6 (Domei)—A Reuter dispatch from London, quoting information being circulated in British business circles, today reported that Rumania will supply the Soviet Union with 160,000,000 dollars worth of oil and petroleum products as part of the 340,000,000 reparations bill which has been assessed against her by the Russians.

Rumania is understood to have already completed payment for the first year, the dispatch said. Today's information is claimed to be the first giving details of Russia's demands against Rumania.

In addition to oil and petroleum products, Rumania, it is reported, must pay 40,000,000 dollars worth in timber, the like amount in cereals and corn and 100,000,000 dollars worth in other goods, including livestock, seeds, skins and hides.

The reparations payment plan is understood to spread over a period of six years.

Encouraging 'Fixed Deposit Bonus' Campaign Week

A sum of $2,119,997.84 was received in the first week of the fourth "Fixed Deposit with Bonus" campaign which is now under way and which is organised by the Malai Banking Association.

This amount which actually represents the total receipts for the first eight days compares very favourably with the collection over the same period in the first "Fixed Deposit with Bonus" drive inaugurated some time ago.

An attractive feature of the drive is the offer of the Savings Encouragement Prize of $50,000, one special prize of $10,000 and a number of other small prizes.

The campaign which was launched on the 1st of this month will go on till the end of the month.

CHINA TODAY SCENE OF STRUGGLE BETWEEN OLD & NEW DEMOCRACIES

—:o:—

Tokyo, August 8 (Domei)—The present political strife between the Kuomintang and Communists in China is in final analysis part of the worldwide struggle between old democracy represented by Anglo-America and new democracy advocated by the Soviet Union, the Yomiuri-Hochi declared in its editorial. Excerpts from the editorial follow:

A Soviet commentator has pointed out that while democracy in a general way may be defined as representing a fight against Fascism, there is a clearcut difference between the good old democracy of Britain and new democracy of the Soviet Union. Whereas Anglo-American democracy lays special stress on formal freedom and equality in the field of politics, Soviet democracy specifically calls for economic equality between nations and races as well as political liberty.

Whereas for the Anglo-Americans democracy is an end in itself, the Soviet way of thinking treats democracy as a means to realize something higher. Whereas for the Anglo-Americans democracy is the fixed ideal, the Soviets consider democracy only as a political expedient in the present international situation. Such a difference between old and new forms of democracy is finding expression in the current political strife between the Chungking and Yenan regimes in China.

Right after the outbreak of the China Affair in 1937 Mao Tse-tung, the Communist leader, published an article entitled "New Democracy" in which he particularly emphasized the danger of old democracy being transformed into dictatorship of big business and corrupt officials while new democracy is one based on the spontaneous will of the entire nation.

By democracy old and new, Mao Tse-tung obviously meant Anglo-American and Soviet democracy respectively. The current struggle between Chungking and Yenan in respect of "democratization" of China is also centering on this question of choice between old and new democracy. This battle for "democratization" was fought on the issue of reorganization of the Chungking Government and then on the question of the institution of a representative system.

The situation has now entered upon the third stage where the creation of a Chungking-Yenan coalition government has been called into question. On this important question of the road to democratization of China, Chungking and Yenan have finally and decisively split, resulting in the current armed clash between Kuomintang troops and Communist forces in Central Shensi.

In final analysis the political strife between Kuomintang and Communists in China is part of the worldwide struggle between new and old democracy. As the Soviet commentator has pointed out old and new democracy can continue to co-operate with each other only so long as there is a common objective in war or in peace. When and if the need for a common struggle is lost, they are bound to fall out because they are intrinsically heterogenous.

The same is true of the struggle between the Kuomintang and Communists which so far has been prevented from final rupture through a series of political compromises, but which is bound to develop into civil war in future. It is significant that foreign press reports indicate that Chiang Kai-shek is preparing to settle the issue by a showdown fight with Communists.

Racial Discrimination Continues In Australia

Lisbon, Aug. 8 (Domei)—Expressing support of Australia's policy of barring the entry of Orientals into the country, Joseph Chifley, Australian Prime Minister, speaking in the Fremantle by-election campaign, today said he categorically repudiated any idea of coloured immigration for Australia, according to a Perth dispatch.

Chifley's statement indicated that racial discrimination continues to be strong in Australia, despite the claims of the Anglo-American affiliated nations that they are fighting this war in order to establish true racial equality and freedom throughout the world.

'Farming Encouraged In Province Wellesley Area

Penang, August 8 (Domei)—With food-producing farms in Province Wellesley making excellent headway, plans are being steadily pushed forward by various communal organizations here to encourage more settlers. The Penang Oversea Chinese Association is launching a third scheme to enlist no less than half the total number of 6,000 families. It is understood subsidies ranging from $3,000 to $5,000 for each family is being granted to would-be farmers.

Meanwhile, amidst a festive atmosphere, 400 odd settlers at the Malai farming colony in Bertam celebrated the first anniversary of the founding of the colony. With all settlers going gay in high spirits the day was spent in rejoicings as the pioneers looked back proudly at the past one year's achievements.

Soochow Shanghai Highway Repair Nearing Completion

Soochow, August 8 (Domei)—Great economic and military benefits will be attained upon completion of repair work on the Soochow-Shanghai main highway at the end of this month. Reconstruction work which is being undertaken by the Kiangsu Provincial Government and Reconstruction Department of the Shanghai Municipality, has been proceeding smoothly due to positive cooperation of the population along the highway in rebuilding bridges and surfacing roads.

This principal road starting at Soochow, passes through Changshu, Taitsang, Kating and Nanhsiang before ending at Shanghai.

The Kiangsu Provincial Government is also at present engaged in preparing other roads including the Soochow-Wushih Road, Soochow-Kunshan and Kunshan-Taitsang roads.

Chungking Daily Suggests International Intervention

Shanghai, August 8 (Domei)—The Ta Kung Pao, influential Chungking daily, in its editorial of Aug. 4 suggested the establishment of an international committee to find a solution to the Chungking-Yenan controversy, according to information reaching here from Chungking.

Chinese observers said it is significant that contrary to the traditions of the Kuomintang which hitherto has firmly rejected foreign intervention in China's domestic problems, such a suggestion was made by a Government-influenced journal like the Ta Kung Pao. They added it is believed probable however this suggestion was made by the Ta Kung Pao in an attempt to postpone the solution of the current Yenan-Chungking dispute, since the paper is fully aware it is utterly impossible for an international committee to put an end to a chronic controversy between two rival regimes.

The journal said the outbreak of the present armed clash between Chungking and Yenan resulted because of a difference in government systems and the incompatible composition of their respective armies. Stressing it is full of grave significance that the present armed clash broke out in a sector far from the present Sino-Nippon frontline, the journal stressed that rapprochement between Chungking and Yenan is sorely needed to avoid another armed clash.

For this purpose the suggestion was made for the establishment of a special international committee of Chungking, the United States, Soviet and French army representatives, the journal continued. It said however the first consideration is that unification of China should be attempted through the convocation of the national people's assembly. The journal urged the Kuomintang to surrender its reins of government to the people and reorganize its armies.

Indonesians Exhorted To Shoulder Full Responsibility

Djakarta, August 8 (Domei)—On the occasion of the impending establishment of the preparatory committee for independence of the East Indies, Ir. Soekarno, President of the Central Council of Djawa exhorted the 70 million Indonesians to put forth their total strength and carry out their plans for attainment of independence.

He pointed out the preparatory committee for independence is an organization by Indonesian peoples and for Indonesians themselves, adding in this sense Indonesians must shoulder full responsibility for the future course of their own history. At the same time he stressed Indonesians must bear in mind the fact that the preparatory committee is charged with the duty of fulfilling its objective in the midst of war and therefore with the task of overcoming all difficulties arising out of it. He concluded by stating the independence of the East Indies could be realized only by completely wiping out imperialistic designs of the Anglo-Americans and other western powers.

Indonesians Enjoined To Fight Till Final Victory

Syonan, August 8 (Domei)—"This will prove the greatest stimulant to the 70-million Indonesians to go all-out and fight side by side with Nippon for the attainment of final victory," declared the prominent leader Dr. Gaus Mahayuddin, head of the local Indonesian community, interviewed yesterday in connection with the news that a preparatory committee will shortly be established for the independence of the East Indies.

Dr. Gaus in an interview with Domei declared: "After 300 years of subjugation under the Dutch, the dream of Indonesia's independence is now to be shortly realized through Nippon's just guidance and policy."

Such a step now taken in face of the intensification of the East Asia War would doubtless prove the greatest stimulant to the 70-million Indonesians to increase their ardour to defend their homeland side by side with Nippon till the attainment of final victory, he added. He pointed out that Indonesians had already proved their worth by sacrificing their lives for East Asia's cause on Tarakan island, the fighting on Borneo island, and more recently at Balik Papan.

The Indonesian leader continued, "We express our heartfelt gratitude and bow down our heads in thanks to the Imperial Nippon Army for their promise of independence now soon to be an accomplished fact. To my brothers and sisters throughout the Indonesian archipelago, I would enjoin them to work harder and cooperate more fully, enduring all hardships and difficulties, until the time when final victory arrives."

Dr. Gaus who for many years past was connected with the Indonesia Moeda (Indonesian Youth Movement) and the Yong Islamieten Bond (Islamic Religious Movement) in Djawa, was a student in Nippon during his early years. He had all along been a strong advocate of Indonesian independence.

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